

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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133rd Anniversary

Annual Celebration Spotlights Future of Pigeon Point Light Station

PIGEON POINT LIGHT STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK – California State Parks invites the public to attend the 133rd anniversary celebration of Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park on November 12. The event will take place from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. with the lighting itself taking place from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

As part of the celebration, State Parks, along with assistance from the United States Coast Guard, will be relighting the original 8,000-pound first order Fresnel lens. This event is attended by hundreds of visitors each year, with many photographers hoping to capture that magic moment when the lens is lit and beams of light radiate around the top the 115 foot tall lighthouse. The anniversary celebration is sponsored by the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting interpretive and educational programs in the State Parks of the San Mateo Coast.

On May 25, the United States Coast Guard conveyed ownership of the light station to California State Parks. This transfer sets in motion a fundraising campaign headed up by the California State Parks Foundation designed to raise the \$5 million dollars needed to fully restore this historic structure. The lighthouse tower, the tallest on the west coast, has been closed to tours since December 2001 when a piece from the upper iron work broke loose. Once the structure is restored, the public will again have the opportunity to take tours up to the top of the tower and get a bird's eye view of the San Mateo Coastline. Despite the tower being closed a dedicated group of docents still lead tours around the historic grounds, give lighthouse talks and organize a shore-based whale watching program most weekends year round.

For this year's anniversary celebration the docents will present talks from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and will operate the Keeper's Store where visitors can find an assortment of lighthouse related books, gifts and apparel. The Fog Signal Building will feature lighthouse videos, marine mammal exhibits and light refreshments. Also, the National Marine Sanctuaries will present exhibits that will highlight the soon to be completed interpretive center that is to be housed inside the Fog Signal Building.

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Pigeon Point Light Station is located off Highway One near Pescadero, California, approximately fifty miles south of San Francisco. For more information, call the Pigeon Point information line at (650) 879-2120 or visit online at www.parks.ca.gov.

Information about California State Parks Foundation's lighthouse restoration campaign can be found at www.calparks.org.

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